Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 /063 W

-----091149Z 084897 /21

R 090920Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6691 INFO SECDEF WASHDC CINCEUR HQ USAF WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: MASS, TU SUBJECT: FMS SUPPORT OF F-4 PROGRAM

REF: (A) ANKARA 0951 (DTG 081128Z FEB 77), (B) ANKARA 0674 (DTG 281325Z JAN 77)

1. LATE AFTERNOON MARCH 8, FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL ASKED ME TO COME TO HIS OFFICE TO DISCUSS THE CONTINUATION OF THE F-4 PROGRAM BEYOND THIS COMING MARCH 31 WHEN CURRENT FMS FUNDING AUTHORITY IS DUE TO EXPIRE. CAGLAYANGIL URGED USG TO CONTINUE F-4 PROGRAM IN FMS FRAMEWORK AND MUTUALLY AGREE ON POST-MARCH 31 FUNDING PROCEDURE WHICH WOULD ACCOMPLISH THIS DURING GAP BETWEEN MARCH 31 AND OCTOBER 1. (BY LATTER DATE TURKS ARE COUNTING ON FY-78 FMS CREDITS BEING AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION). IN THE MEANTIME, ACCORDING TO FONMIN, GOT STRONGLY PREFERS SOLUTION DETAILED IN AIDE MEMOIRE GIVEN TO ME AT CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING. THE OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH OF THIS AIDE MEMOIRE READS: BEGIN QUOTE: TURKEY IS PREPARED TO PAY THIS SUM ON THE CONDITION THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FMS STATUS OF THE PROJECT IS MAINTAINED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY COULD BE FOR THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE AN IRREVOCABLE LETTER OF CREDIT TO THE MANUFACTURING FIRM IN THE SUM OF 83.1 MILLION DOLLARS, PROVIDED THAT THE PROJECT IS CONTINUED IN FMS STATUS. END QUOTE.

2. I TOLD CAGLAYANGIL THAT USG WAS VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE PROBLEM HE WAS RAISING AND THAT OFFICIALS IN THE PENTAGON AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN SEEKING TO WORK OUT A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION FOR SOME TIME. I ALSO INDICATED AWARENESS OF AMBASSADOR ESENBEL'S DEMARCHE IN WASHINGTON ON THE PREVIOUS DAY. I NOTED THAT A USAF-CONTRACTOR TEAM WAS ARRIVING IN ANKARA THIS WEEKEND AND ALONG WITH EMBASSY AND JUSMMAT OFFICIALS WOULD BE EXPLORING THE DIFFERENT OPTIONS OPEN TO THE TWO GOVERN-MENTS THIS COMING WEEK. I SAID THAT WE, TOO, PREFERRED TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITHIN THE FMS FRAMEWORK IF THIS WAS FEASIBLE. AT THIS POINT, CAGLAYANGIL COMMENTED AT SOME LENGTH ON THE REASONS WHY GOT STRONGLY PREFERS THE MAINTENANCE OF THE FMS FRAMEWORK, REASONS WITH WHICH CONCERNED STATE AND DEFENSE OFFICIALS ARE FULLY FAMILIAR. HE ASKED WHETHER I PERSONALLY THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE ANY REAL DIFFICULTY IN KEEPING THE FMS FRAMEWORK INTACT AFTER MARCH 31. I SAID

AT I WAS HOPEFUL THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED, BUT I WAS NOT REPEAT NOT IN A POSITION TO TELL HIM THAT IT WOULD BE, BECAUSE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE THERE WERE STILL SOME LEGAL EROBLEMS WHICH HAD TO BE DEALT WITH. I KNEW OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON WERE TRYING TO RESOLVE THESE BUT WHETHER THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE, I DID NOT KNOW.

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